



BTA Recognized for the Evolution of its Business Enterprise Architecture – Former Chief Architect Wins an Excellence Award

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Arlington, Va. – The Business Transformation Agency's (BTA) accomplishments in transforming the way the Department of Defense (DoD) uses architecture have attracted considerable attention, thanks in part to the former Chief Architect, Deedee Akeo. Akeo recently won the 2009 Excellence in Enterprise Architecture Results Award in recognition of her significant contributions in the development of the Business Enterprise Architecture (BEA). She was specifically recognized in the "Leadership in Government Transformation Using Enterprise Architecture" category.

This award was sponsored by the "1105 Government Information Group" and the Federated Enterprise Architecture Certification (FEAC) Institute. Recipients are recognized for solving major business integration problems with measurable results – improving the quality, timeliness and accuracy of services, as applied to a specific government enterprise's business or mission.



Akeo recognized for
BEA work.

Akeo was selected for this award based on her leadership and innovation in architecture development and deployment. She is recognized for rapidly developing a useful and a user-friendly BEA that improved business processes and system integration across DoD.

"She led the effort to enhance visualization tools, web capabilities and easy access to the BEA online. She made it possible for stakeholders to make changes to the BEA within three months versus one year to eighteen it previously took," said Mike Boller, Enterprise Planning and Investment (EP&I) Acting Director.

Akeo also refocused development efforts and placed more emphasis on information integration and outreach to get the word out about the BEA's capabilities. In the process, she influenced external agencies such as the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to use the architecture's capabilities.

One of Akeo's former employees, Johnny Burton, said her dedication is well known. "If we had not had a person of her caliber to lead this effort, we would not be where we are today simply because she is a difference maker."

Trish Van Belle, EP&I's Chief Operations Officer, said "the addition of new content in the BEA -- such as end-to-end business processes and standardized data requirements including the Standard Financial Information Structure (SFIS) -- is expected to improve system interoperability and positively impact financial compliance."

While everyone praised Akeo, she in turn emphasized and praised her team's collaborative efforts for facilitating integration amongst DoD's functional owners and building a meaningful and useful Business Enterprise Architecture. "It's a team effort; I didn't win; we all won," she said.

Akeo has been involved with DoD's business transformation since the inception of the Financial Management Modernization Program (FMMP) in 2002. "Among other things, we are trying to fix a stovepipe environment in DoD, we are making progress and people are noticing," she said.

The former BEA Chief Architect is currently enrolled in the Defense Senior Leadership Development Program and is attending the National War College at the National Defense University. The Excellence in Enterprise Architecture Award was presented on September 10, 2009, during the Enterprise Architecture Conference held at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.